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BRIEFER ARTICLES.

BRASSICA JUNCEA.

DR. ROBINSON'S note on page 252 of the September GAZETTE, recording the rapid dissemination of *Brassica juncea* in the eastern states, recalls the fact that this species is a common inhabitant of gardens. It is known as a pot-herb, and is variously called Chinese broad-leaved mustard, brown mustard, and Chinese mustard. A somewhat full account of this and related oriental brassicas, which are now cultivated in this country, is given in Bulletin 67 of the Cornell Experiment Station ("Some recent Chinese vegetables"), with illustrations. It is now a question whether these naturalized plants are introductions of the weedy *Brassica juncea* from the Old World, or whether they are spontaneous derivatives from the garden forms. A study of the plants in the field could no doubt settle this question.—
L. H. BAILEY, *Cornell University*.

NORTH AMERICAN SPECIES OF EUPHRASIA.

IN preparing my monograph of the genus *Euphrasia*¹ I tried to make clear the extremely polymorphic forms which are to be found in North America. In this connection I wish to correct an error in one of the maps of the memoir, caused by a very unfortunate mistake, and one which I did not observe in the proof. I can distinguish three species of the genus *Euphrasia* in North America, as follows:

1. *E. Americana* Wettst. Near to the European *E. nemorosa* Pers., and as yet known only from eastern Canada.

2. *E. latifolia* Pursh. Distributed throughout the arctic regions of Asia and Europe, throughout Greenland, and extending into Cumberland and eastern Labrador.

3. *E. Oakesii* Wettst. A most distinct form, which as yet has been

¹ Monographie der Gattung *Euphrasia*. 4to, pp. 316, pl. 14. Leipzig, Engelmann, 1896.

found only in the White mountains of New Hampshire. By a mistake the range of this species was indicated in map I of my monograph as being in western North America. The error is not fatal, or even serious, as in the text (p. 173) the region is indicated properly. I should like to call special attention to the blunder, however, and to ask that area 12 on map I be stricken out.

A species which possibly occurs in North America, but whose presence cannot be proved as yet with certainty, is *E. hirtella* Jord. I found three specimens of it in the herbarium of the Royal Museum at Berlin, mixed with specimens of *E. Americana*, and ticketed "*E. officinalis*, flora boreal-Americ. (Hooker)."—RICHARD VON WETTSTEIN, *Prag, Austria*.

ABORTIVE FLOWER BUDS OF TRILLIUM.

DURING a course of study upon the development of pollen grains, an attempt was made to secure early spring buds of Trillium. Plants taken from beneath the still frozen soil near Ithaca on April 5 were examined. Among fifteen plants one bud was found about 15^{mm} in length, in which the pollen mother-cells had already separated from one another and were undergoing nuclear division. The other fourteen plants had minute buds 3^{mm} or less in length, in some cases the leaves of the perianth being distinguishable with the naked eye, in others only a slight projection above the receptacle being made out. Some of these small buds were treated with collodion and sectioned, when the sepals were found to be clearly differentiated, but within was only a confused mass of cells, many of them apparently dead, with almost no differentiation of petals, stamens, and pistil.

On April 15 a large number of plants just appearing above ground were collected. Only a small proportion contained healthy buds, and in these the pollen mother-cells were in the later stages of division, or, in some cases, the pollen grains were already formed. Sixty plants in which there were no growing buds were examined with a hand lens. In only three or four did the lens fail to show some traces of a bud, in some cases, as before, only a slight elevation. Usually the rudiment of a perianth could be distinguished, either as a white speck or as very evident floral leaves, sometimes 2 to 3^{mm} in length, but withered and evidently abortive.

As care had been taken to collect plants with indications of buds,